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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,304	11/19/2003	Pascal Banry	03-43	6474
30030	7590	06/01/2006	EXAMINER	
JAMES R. WILLIAMS 3103 WILMINGTON ROAD NEW CASTLE, PA 16105			COLETTA, LORI L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3612	

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 16, 17, 20-22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watamatsu 4,361,352.

Regarding claim 16, Watamatsu '352 discloses a motor vehicle bumper comprising a shield (22) having a first impact zone located substantially at a first height corresponding to a knee of an adult pedestrian and, immediately below the first impact zone, a second impact zone located substantially at a second height corresponding to a tibia of the adult pedestrian, the shield comprising a top portion and a bottom portion set back from the top portion; the top portion comprising the first and second impact zones; a beam (25) behind the shield substantially at the first height, in register with and at a certain distance from the shield and in which the beam is placed in register with the top portion; and at least one block (24) comprising a compressible material interposed between the beam and the shield, the block having a front end in register with the second impact zone of the shield, a rear end in register with the beam, and a cross-section that increases from its front end towards its rear end, the block being interposed between the beam and the top portion in Figure 2.

Regarding claim 17, Watamatsu '352 discloses the motor vehicle bumper, wherein the beam (25) includes a transverse length and the block is disposed transversely along the length of the beam in Figure 2.

Regarding claim 20, Watamatsu '352 discloses the motor vehicle bumper, wherein the cross-section of the block defines a trapezoid having a small base formed by the front end and a large base formed by the rear end in Figure 2.

Regarding claim 21, Watamatsu '352 discloses the motor vehicle bumper, wherein the cross-section defines a rectangular trapezoid having a perpendicular side that is perpendicular to the small base and the large base in Figure 2.

Regarding claim 22, Watamatsu '352 discloses the motor vehicle bumper, wherein the block includes a bottom face facing downwards defining the perpendicular side in Figure 2.

Regarding claim 24, Watamatsu '352 discloses the motor vehicle bumper, wherein the first height is more than 450 mm above the ground in Figure 2.

Regarding claim 25, Wakamatsu '352 discloses the bumper wherein the cross-section more than doubles from the front end of the block to the rear end of the block.

Regarding claim 26, Watamatsu '352 discloses the motor vehicle bumper, wherein the compressible material comprises foam in Figure 2.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakamatsu 4,361,352 in view of Ohno et al. 5,378,031.

Regarding claim 27, Wakamatsu '352 discloses the motor vehicle bumper but does not show wherein the foam material comprises expanded polypropylene.

Ohno '031 teaches a bumper, wherein the foam material comprises expanded polypropylene in Figure 2.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 18, 19 and 23 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 16, 17, 20-22 and 24-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 3612

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori L. Coletta whose telephone number is 571-272-6658.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 571-272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Lori L. Coletta  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3612

llc  
May 26, 2006